

Huddleston House
E. Main St. (U.S. 40)
Mount Auburn
Wayne County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-110

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HUDDLESTON HOUSE

HABS No. IN-110

Location: South side of East Main Street (U.S. 40), approximately 250' east of the intersection of East Street, Mount Auburn, Wayne County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 3402 Boulevard Place, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208.

Present Occupant: Lawson Roberts.

Present Use: Residence and museum.

Significance: This Greek Revival-style building is one of the few intact surviving inns on the Old National Road (now U.S. 40), once the migratory road to the west.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1839. John Huddleston bought four acres of land in 1839, paying \$300, and by the late 1840s the property had improvements assessed at \$1,000 (Jackson Township Transfer Book, 1846-49).
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The property today is N.E. Sec. 281612, approximately 1.4 acres, parcel no. 46205, recorded in the Office of the Wayne County Recorder.

1839	Deed of August 13, 1839, recorded in Book 1, p. 158. J. P. Creager to John Huddleston for \$300. Huddleston subsequently acquired adjacent land.
1880	Deed of March 24, 1880, recorded in Book 71, p. 246. Susanna Huddleston, widow of John, to Henry Huddleston.
1934	Deed of October 13, 1934. Kenneth Huddleston to Albert E. and J. G. Curtis, antique dealers from Indianapolis.
1955	Deed of January 3, 1955, recorded in Book 265, p. 438. Albert E. and Ione Curtis to Edna E. Muster.

- 1960 Deed of January 9, 1960, recorded in Book 294, p. 94.
Edna Muster to Jerome and Edith Doerflin.
- 1961 Deed of September 15, 1961, recorded in Book 301, p. 551.
Jerome and Edith Doerflin to Paul and Edith Cochran.
- 1966 Deed of November 21, 1966, recorded November 23, 1966,
in Book 331, p. 120.
Paul and Joanne Cochran to the Historic Landmarks
Foundation of Indiana.

4. Original plans, construction: The Huddleston House apparently served as both inn and residence for the Huddlestons' large family. The original use of the rooms is not known. According to Thomas Reed in the 1974 Indiana inventory of historic properties, "The interior of the tavern consists of a bar on the first level facing the National Road, a ladies parlour and gentlemen's parlour on the second or main level, entered from a rear courtyard or from an enclosed stairway from the bar, and sleeping rooms on the third level and in the garrett." This is not an improbable reconstruction of an inn, but it does not seem to accommodate the Huddleston family. The Huddleston inn may well have been much simpler than this. The inn probably did not have a bar due to the Huddlestons' Quaker religion.

The main building with its outbuildings still gives the feeling of what a nineteenth-century inn courtyard would have been like. On an 1874 map of Mount Auburn, the house is shown with two outbuildings, one labelled "shop" which no longer exists and the other a rectangular building which is probably the present barn east of the house. The spring house now connected to the main house and the smoke house are of uncertain date.

The construction of the barn with its rough-hewn timbers and its board-and-batten siding would indicate it was probably built at about the same time as the house. The fine cupola, however, appears to be more recent than the rest of the barn since it was rather crudely inserted by sawing out part of the roof. Its Italianate brackets also indicate a later date.

5. Alterations and additions: The construction of the stairway in the main block is modern. Possibly, it replaces an earlier stairway but more likely the entire stairway is a later addition. This would mean that the house originally would have had communication between floors only by the stair in the rear wing. There would have been changes in the middle room of the first floor to accommodate closets and it is possible that the stud and plaster partition across the front of this room is an addition, although the door trim matches that of the rest of the house.

A number of other changes have been made in the house. The chair rail in the second-floor east room is probably a recent addition. There is new wood flooring in this room and in the first-floor middle room, but the west room still preserves most of its original flooring. At an indeterminate date an addition was made to the northeast corner of the kitchen wing, filling out the rectangle and cutting off part of the original porch where a stairway from the basement had its outlet.

B. Historical Context:

John Huddleston's family came to Indiana from Guilford County, North Carolina, in 1821. Huddleston married Susan Myer and had a family of thirteen. They were members of the Dublin United Brethren Church and according to local legend kept a "higher moral tone than was to be found at many stage coach stopping places of the day. He sold no whiskey, and would allow none to be consumed on the place" ("Huddleston House," pamphlet, 1941).

The National Road was one of the great routes of westward migration in the United States. During most of the time between its completion through Indiana in 1834 until the time it was largely eclipsed by the railroads after the Civil War, the road brought hundreds of travelers past the Huddleston House each month. There are still a number of inns which have survived in this area of Indiana, notably the old Mansion House (built ca. 1840) and the American House (built in the 1830s) in Centerville. The National Road revived in the automobile age when it became U.S. 40, but since the construction of Interstate 70, has again surrendered its position as the area's major east-west thoroughfare. Current plans call for a restoration of the building and its probable use as a tavern and restaurant.

C. Sources of Information:

Atlas of Wayne County, Indiana, Philadelphia, 1874.

Burns, Lee, "The National Road in Indiana," Indiana Historical Society Publications, vol. 8, no. 4, 1919.

Hill, Herbert, "Old National Road Towns and Inns," Outdoor Indiana.

"Huddleston House," pamphlet, 1941.

Prepared by: Robert Bruegmann
Project Historian
Summer, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Greek Revival-style building is one of the few surviving inns with its interior and exterior still basically intact.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. Alterations at porch, connection to spring house, and bathrooms.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 50'-3" (six-bay front) x 44'-4". L-shaped, not including the crudely and recently connected spring house. Two stories with full basement in front, which was apparently the original inn entrance floor.
2. Foundations: brick.
3. Walls: Brick in common bond.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing walls with wood joists and rafters.
5. Porches: The porch on the south side of the first floor, apparently a later addition, has octagonal wood columns, a concrete floor, and asphalt roofing on a shed roof. All wood painted white.
6. Chimneys: Three, with cement parging on the externally expressed brick kitchen chimney. The other two are brick, flush to the exterior wall, and have corbelled brick caps.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Wood doors with two vertical panels. Glazed transoms over the basement (north) doors. Plain wood trim and flush stone lintels, all painted white. Stone sills.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Wooden windows with six-over-six-light, double-hung sash. Plain wood trim with stone lintels and sills. Some sills are wooden. All painted white.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable. Shed roof over eastern side of kitchen wing, first floor. Asphalt shingle covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Exposed jack rafters and sheathing. Fascia with frieze and barge boards. Metal gutters and leaders.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The main block has three linear rooms in each floor with the addition of a bathroom on the second floor, north wall. The wing has a kitchen on the first floor (on grade) with a room above accessible to the main second floor but down three steps. Toilets and storerooms are on the east side of the kitchen.
2. Stairway: The narrow enclosed stairway in the main block is in two single runs, both closed, with winders making a quarter turn at basement and second floor. The first-floor landing serves as a passage between rooms. There is a steep enclosed stair between the kitchen and the room above.
3. Flooring: Surface nailed hardwood planks on the first and second floors. Concrete slab in the basement.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster except for wallpaper on all room walls of the first floor of the main block. Trim and ceilings are painted white.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden doors with two vertical panels, architrave trim, all painted white.
6. Decorative features and trim: Low cabinets with single-paneled doors on each side of the second-floor east fireplace. Brick wall is exposed inside cabinets. Wood fireplace trim has pilasters, frieze and end blocks on the first floor, plain surrounds on the second.
7. Hardware: Shutter hinges at most openings; no existing shutters. Cast metal eagle above leaf door knockers at basement exterior doors.
8. Mechanical equipment: Warm air heating, concealed electrical wiring.

Prepared by: Mort Karp
Project Supervisor

June, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The project was completed in the summer of 1974 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; and Associate Professor Mort Karp of the University of Arkansas, Project Supervisor; Architect Harry Hunderman (University of Michigan); and student assistant architects Scott Barnard (University of Pennsylvania), Mark Hall (Pennsylvania State University), and Richard Perlmutter (Yale University); and architectural historian Robert Bruegmann (University of Pennsylvania) at the HABS Field Office at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in January, 1975. The written historical and architectural data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.

ADDENDUM TO
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